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LETTER TO COMMISSION  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

TO: Mayor Matti Herrera Bower and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: June 27, 2013

SUBJECT: **TRAFFIC ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED 30 DAY MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC  
PLAN FOR CLOSURE OF SR 907/ALTON ROAD AT 5TH STREET FLY-OVER**

The purpose of this Letter to Commission is to provide an update on the FDOT State Road (SR) 907/Alton Road Reconstruction Project from 5<sup>th</sup> Street to Michigan Avenue and, in particular, a proposed thirty (30) day closure of the 5<sup>th</sup> Street fly-over in order to replace the existing substandard traffic barriers and approach slabs on the fly-over.

Initially, FDOT proposed that the fly-over work would not require full closure except for 10 days related to the approach slabs, but only narrowing of the fly-over for a six (6) month period (180 calendar days). As per FDOT plans, the fly-over construction would require nightly work (12:00 AM to 5:00 AM). The proposed narrowing would take the fly-over from its current width to approximately 10 feet at its narrowest point. In addition, the radius of the curve at the fly-over would be affected by the narrowing, thus, as a safety precaution, FDOT would be required to prohibit truck access on the fly-over. Upon further review of the means and methods of construction, FDOT determined that nightly closures of the fly-over would be required in order for the contractor to safely perform the work. The narrowing of the fly-over would remain even during the non-working hours.

As a result of outstanding safety concerns associated with narrowing the fly-over, and in an effort to shorten the duration of the fly-over work, the contractor has advised FDOT and the City of Miami Beach of an alternate Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) proposal consisting of the full closure of the fly-over for 30 consecutive calendar days. The full closure of the fly-over would allow the contractor to work longer shifts, safer and more efficiently, thus completing this work earlier. The contractor has committed to completing all fly-over work in 30 consecutive calendar days. This option represents a reduction of 150 calendar days in comparison to the approved narrowing option. This proposal would also reduce noise pollution to surrounding properties at night.

The contractor retained the services of a traffic engineering consultant to gauge the impacts of the full closure as compared to the narrowing option and existing conditions. The proposed full closure would require the contractor to perform alignment modifications to the intersection of 5<sup>th</sup> Street and Alton Road in order to accommodate additional capacity in the eastbound direction. Following the analysis by the traffic consultant, and based on input from FDOT staff and City of Miami Beach (City) staff, it was determined that the lane configurations needed to mitigate the anticipated traffic impacts due to the full closure would include an eastbound left/through lane, an eastbound through lane, and an eastbound right/through lane.

As a result of FDOT and City staff concerns with anticipated traffic delays and excessive congestion approaching the intersection of 5<sup>th</sup> Street and Alton Road, particularly from the west,



the FDOT's traffic engineering consultant performed a traffic modeling analysis that resulted in the following delays and queue lengths:

FDOT Alton Road Reconstruction Project Alton Road Fly-Over Closure Analysis							
AM PEAK		Existing Conditions		MOT per Approved FDOT Plans		Alternate MOT Proposed by Contractor	
		Delay (sec)	Queue Length (ft)	Delay (sec)	Queue Length (ft)	Delay (sec)	Queue Length (ft)
	EB	29.7	430	34.2	490	122	606
	WB	23.1	440	23.1	440	40	492
PM PEAK		Existing Conditions		MOT by Approved Plan		MOT Prop. by the Contractor	
		Delay (sec)	Queue Length (ft)	Delay (sec)	Queue Length (ft)	Delay (sec)	Queue Length (ft)
	EB	30.7	400	75.2	N/A	129.4	635
	WB	53	870	53	870	196.1	765


It is important to note that FDOT's Traffic Operations Department and Construction Department have reviewed the proposal for full closure and offered their support via a letter to the City (Attachment).

As shown in the table above, the eastbound intersection delays for the alternate MOT proposal by the contractor are higher as compared to existing conditions and the MOT as per FDOT plans. It is worth noting that the queuing analysis shown above does not take into consideration the nightly closures as they are outside of peak hours. The concern with the increase in delay is that the compound effect will result in longer queues approaching the intersection from the west; however, based on the reduced duration of construction and impacts to the community, as well as a commitment from FDOT and its contractor to deploy a robust public outreach program, City staff recommends that the full closure of the fly-over for 30 consecutive calendar days be supported.

FDOT recognizes the need to enhance its public outreach program to effectively communicate the upcoming closure of the fly-over and ensure the success of this alternate MOT plan. An engineering task force, comprised of FDOT staff, contractor, traffic engineers, and City staff has been formed to further analyze the alternate/detour routes, monitor traffic flow through the use of traffic cameras, and coordinate the necessary modifications to the network and signal timings to help mitigate traffic impacts due to the closure of the fly-over.

The FDOT public outreach team and contractor will initiate contact with the City Administration and staff to coordinate the public outreach effort. The contractor anticipates performing the closure beginning July 14<sup>th</sup> through August 13<sup>th</sup>.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

  
KGB/ETC/JRG/JFD





## ***Florida Department of Transportation***

**RICK SCOTT**  
GOVERNOR

North Miami-Dade Construction  
1773 N.E. 205<sup>th</sup> Street  
N. Miami Beach, FL 33179

**ANANTH PRASAD, P.E.**  
SECRETARY

June 24, 2013

**DELIVERED BY ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Eric T. Carpenter, P.E., Public Works Director  
1700 Convention Center Drive  
Miami Beach, FL 33139  
EricCarpenter@miamibeachfl.gov

**RE: Financial Project ID: 249911-1-52-01, 249911-1-52-02, 249911-1-56-01, 249911-3-52-01,  
249911-3-52-02**

**Contract: T-6290**

**FAP: 6227004U, 6227002U**

**County: Miami-Dade**

**Description: SR 907 (Alton Road) from 5th Street to Michigan Avenue and at 5th  
Street, 10th Street and 14th Street**

### **ALTON ROAD FLYOVER BRIDGE CLOSURES**

Director Carpenter:

After careful analysis and consideration, the Florida Department of Transportation has decided to approve Bergeron Land Development's proposal to close the Alton Road flyover bridge from the MacArthur Causeway to northbound Alton Road for a period of 30 consecutive calendar days. Although the FDOT acknowledges the increased congestion this closure will cause at the intersection of Alton Road and 5th Street, we also recognize the significant benefits to this closure:

1. Bridge construction operations condensed to 30 calendar days versus an original 6 month duration.
2. Limited nighttime operations versus the original plan which called for nightly closures between 12AM and 5AM
3. Safer passage for vehicles including trucks on at-grade streets vs. the flyover bridge with reduced lane width
4. Safer workzone for workers without the conflict caused by vehicles on the bridge during construction operations
5. Limitation of the operation during non-school and non-holiday period of July 14, 2013 through August 18, 2013

A disincentive clause for the late reopening of the bridge will be included in the construction contract. The disincentive will be \$5,000/day up to \$25,000.

The contractor will be required to provide a detailed Maintenance of Traffic plan clearly identifying the proposed detour routes with signage and the necessary traffic signalization adjustments to be implemented. Also, in conjunction with the FDOT and the City of Miami Beach, the contractor will lead

an aggressive Public Information campaign to advise the affected community and commuters of viable detour routes.

I'd like to thank you and your staff for your attention and comments during the analysis of the proposed closure. Our CEI and Public Information staff is prepared to work with the contractor and the City in the implementation of the closure. Please contact me with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mark Croft', written in a cursive style.

Mark Croft, P.E.  
District Construction Engineer

cc: Gus Pego, Debora Rivera, Mario Cabrera, Saud Kahn, Ivan Hay, Amanda Shotton, Daniel Iglesias, Evelin Legcevic, Enrique Tamayo, Time File